The approach is to ensure better governance and effective delivery of socio-economic development programmes, together with focused and coordinated action to ensure a secure environment.

Special attention is being given on planning, implementation and monitoring of development schemes. Under the Backward Districts Initiative, which covered 147 districts, an amount of Rs. 45 crore per district had been allocated on a non-lapsable basis. This has now been replaced by the Backward Regions Grant Fund, in 250 districts. National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, which was originally being implemented in 200 districts, and was extended to 330 districts in April, 2007, is now being extended to all districts in the country, having regard to-the need to universalise this demand-driven programme for wage-employment. These schemes are in addition to various income-generating, public-utility and social-security schemes of different Ministries like Rural Development, Agriculture, Health and Family Welfare, Youth Affairs and Sports, Panchayati Raj and Tribal Affairs.

An Inter Ministerial Group under Additional secretary (Naxal Management) in the M inistry of Home Affairs oversees effective implementation of development schemes in naxalite affected areas for accelerated socio-economic development.

Labourers killed in Manipur

3154. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Manipur is becoming a lawless region with militants threatening doctors and teachers, killing Government officials and Hindi-speaking people and extorting money from even temples;

(b) if so, how many incidences have come to the notice of Government during the last one year;

(c) how many labourers/Hindi speaking people have been killed so far in Manipur; and

(d) what action Government has taken against extortionists in the disturbed areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that several militant outfits have been indulging in violence, intimidation, extortion, etc. in the State. According to available information, there were 584 incidents of violence including killings, abduction, etc. during the year 2007.

(c) According to information provided by the State Government, 16 non-locals were killed in separate attacks in East Imphal, West Imphal and Thoubal Districts on 17-18 March, 2008.

(d) The Government of Manipur has been taking sustained action to contain the activities of the militant groups. A Combined Headquarters has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, with representatives of the State Government, Army and the Central Security Forces/agencies, to periodically review the situation, work out strategies, and coordinate Counter Insurgency Operations. The Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Government in various ways such as, deployment of central security forces to aid the State Police; providing sucurity to vulnerable installations and projects etc.

based on threat assessment; deployment of forces on and surveillance on the border; sharing of intelligence on a continuous basis; financial assistance for strengthening and upgradation of the local Police under the Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces; sanctioning of India Reserve Battalions/Commando Battalions; assistnace for strengthening of variou. aspects of the security apparatus and counter insurgency operations by way of reimbursement of expenditure under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme; etc. The Central Government has also been in close and continuous contact with the State Government and has been reviewing the situation on a regular basis, including visits of senior officers to the State from time to time.

Workers leaving for home from Maharashtra

3155. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that an estimated 60,000 workers from the Nasik-Sinnar-Ambad industrial belt and more workers from the Pune-Hinjewadi region have left for home in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the criminals who assulted the poor labourers;

(c) what action Government has taken against the culprits of Konkan Kanya Express incident; and

(d) what concrete steps have been followed by Government apart from assurances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government is aware of reports of people having left their workplaces from Pune and Nasik in the wake of certain incidents that had occurred in Maharashtra in February, 2008. However, there is no authentic information about the number of such persons.

(b) According to information received from the State Government, wherever any incident took place firm action was promptly taken. 336 cases were registered in different parts of the State and 1575 persons arrested for substantive offences. In addition, preventive action was taken against 5159 persons.

(c) As per available information, a case was registered at Nagothane (District Raigad), which was later transferred to GRP, Thane and is under investigation. The incident pertained to quarrel in the general compartment over occupation of seats.

(d) A number of measures were taken by the State Government to prevent such incidents and create a sense of security which, *inter alia,* included deployment of the State Police and Central Para-Military Forces in sensitive areas, mobile patrolling, setting up of temporary Police chowkis at various places, visits of Police officials and members of Peace Committees to industrial areas, dialogue with members of North-Indian/non-Maharashtrian community to infuse a sense of security among them, regular interaction with industrialists, etc.